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Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes

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Standard for seed potatoes

Revised definition of 'Designated Authority'

The following document contains the revised definition of the term "Designated Authority" prepared by the Rapporteurs from New Zealand and the United Kingdom with input from Australia, and Finland. The Specialized Section is invited to discuss the proposal.

* Submitted on the above date due to delayed inputs.

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The 44th Session of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes decided to review the definition of "Designated Authority" as contained in the UNECE Standard S-1 concerning the marketing and commercial quality control of Seed Potatoes (page 6) and propose new wording and terminology at the next session in 2018. The work was to be led by the Specialized Section's Chair and Vice-Chairs with collaboration from New Zealand. The following proposed wording has been drafted for consideration and recommendation to the 45th Session in March 2018.

In the Introduction, section IV, of the Standard it is specified that "Countries applying this Standard should notify the UNECE Secretariat of their Designated Authority (DA) responsible for its implementation". The Standard defines "Designated Authority (DA)" as "Organization(s), agency or agencies designated and empowered by legislation to administer the certification of seed potatoes under the Standard". Not all seed potato certifying organizations are empowered by legislation.

The Standard also specifies that the "DA shall notify the UNECE secretariat of each additional or more stringent quality requirement, together with technical or scientific justification for it". However it appears that practice of notifying the Secretariat of such deviations, or of the identity of their DAs, has not been consistently implemented and this information is not fully held by the Secretariat.

There are also some seed potato certifying organizations which use the Standard (and Guides) as a basis for their own Seed Potato Certification Schemes, rather than "applying" or certifying to the Standard. All of these organizations have an interest in the Standard and in the development of guides to its implementation.

It is suggested that several amendments are made regarding the term "Designated Authority".

Annex VII

~~Designated~~ **Certifying** Authority (~~D~~**C**A): Organization(s), agency or agencies ~~designated and empowered by legislation to~~ administer**ing** the certification of seed potatoes ~~under the Standard~~",

Introduction, Section IV

"~~Countries~~ **Certifying Authorities** applying this Standard should notify the UNECE Secretariat ~~of their Designated Authority (DA) responsible for its implementation~~".

Alternatively this sentence could be deleted.

Annex V

3. The ~~Designated~~ **Certifying** Authority (~~D~~**C**A) or its recognized initials

Annex X

Section 2

Where a**n** ~~designated~~ importing ~~authority~~ **CA** identifies a non-compliance it should inform the exporting ~~D~~**C**A, giving details of the reason for the non-compliance.

Throughout the text replace the acronym DA with CA.